



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

APRIL 26, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: WILL JENKINS

PHONE: (202) 225-3826

BISHOP VOTES FOR A NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ

Iraq Accountability Act Would Support Troops, Honor Veterans, and Hold Leaders Accountable

WASHINGTON, DC— Congressman Tim Bishop this week joined a majority in the House of Representatives to approve the conference report on the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act. This measure provides the change in course in Iraq that the American public has been demanding – requiring accountability from both the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government. The Senate also passed the legislation.

"The decision to invade Iraq was the single most devastating and misguided foreign policy decision our nation has ever made," said Bishop. "To give the President another blank check to recklessly continue pursuing a failed policy would be unconscionable. The President needs to understand that the days of blank checks and stay-the-course are over. The American people demand accountability and a new direction in Iraq, and so does the Congress."

This measure gives strong support to U.S. Armed Forces, providing \$4 billion more for the troops than the President requested. This includes additional funding for military health care, military housing, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for our troops, and a Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund. The measure also honors veterans, providing \$1.8 billion not requested by the President to meet the health care needs of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The measure establishes a responsible timeline for the redeployment of U.S. combat troops from Iraq beginning no later than October 2007, with a goal of being completed by March 2008. It also requires Iraqis to begin taking responsibility for their country's security, reconstruction and political functions. This represents the approach recommended by the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, which also called for a goal of completing redeployment by March 2008.

#